

The Meconopsis Group

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Newsletter May 2009

Dear Member,

.....A few items of news for you at this busy time of year.

Two changes to the Constitution

This is minuted in the Report of the AGM held on 28th February 2009.

1 Section 1 has been amended to read

“**Name** The Group shall be called ‘The Meconopsis Group’.”

2 Section 5 b) has been amended to read

“Members of the Management Committee shall serve for a period of up to three years, after which they are eligible for re-election on an annual basis.”

I have enclosed /attached a copy of the Constitution, amended 28.02.09.

Gardening Scotland 29th, 30th and 31st May 2009

We have a stand at the Gardening Scotland Show at Ingliston, Edinburgh. Please come and visit!

Volunteers to man the stand are still required. Please contact Geoff Hill by telephone at 0131 440 1668

or by email at geoff.hill@eggconnect.net

It is expected that a meeting of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee of the RHS will be convened at Gardening Scotland. This will allow a further assessment of *Meconopsis* and other plants.

Holehird visit 2009

The visit to Holehird Horticultural Society at Holehird Garden will take place over 3 days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 5th, 6th and 7th June 2009. The weekend is being arranged by Peggy Anderson and Cameron Carmichael, with valued help from Pat Murphy.

Provisional arrangements have been sent by Peggy Anderson to all members who have expressed an interest. There will be two private Garden visits on Friday afternoon, demonstration and tour of Holehird Garden on the Saturday, followed by one or more Garden visits. On Sunday, visits to Dalemain Garden and Dr. Roger Nelson’s garden at Brampton have been organised.

A Volunteer is sought to do a report of the weekend! Please contact me and I will pass your interest on to Peggy.

October 31st 2009

The next Group meeting will be held in the Conference Room at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) at 10.00am for 10.30am.

The provisional programme is interesting and varied. Mark Watson of the RBGE will be a main speaker. There will be a further presentation by Paul Egan on "New findings on Meconopsis from Nepal". It is also hoped to have the valuable slides of Dieter Schacht from Schachen Garden, southern Germany, with a commentary by Jim Jermyn. The program will also include ‘Suggested Plants for naming next year’ by Evelyn Stevens and Ian Christie will continue his Questions and Answers PowerPoint presentation.

The detailed programme for the meeting will be sent in the autumn.

Gardens to visit

1 The Woodland Garden at the **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh** has been planted with *Meconopsis* recently given Awards. It is open daily at this time of year from 10am to 7pm. Garden entry is free, with a charge for the Glasshouses. **NOTE:** the West Gate is closed during construction of the John Hope Gateway. Enter by the East Gate on Inverleith Row or North Gate on Inverleith Place.

2 **Branklyn Garden** (NTS) in Perth has a range of outstanding plants - rhododendrons, alpines, herbaceous and peat-garden plants. Steve McNamara has developed a *Meconopsis Trail*, with Fact sheets detailing the location of many of the named plants. Gardens open daily 10 am to 5 pm at 116 Dundee Road, Perth PH2 7BB. There are other Gardens to visit too - **Explorers, The Scottish Plant Hunters Garden** (Pitlochry), **Logan Botanic Garden**, (Port Logan), **Dawyck Botanic Garden**, (Peebles) and **Crarae Garden**, (NTS) (Inverary).

A Garden to Save - Arduaine Garden

You may already know about the proposed closure of Arduaine Garden (20m S of Oban) by the National Trust for Scotland, who are facing severe financial problems. Public support is needed to keep this garden open.

'Blue Heaven' by Bill Terry

This book, due to be published at the end of May 2009, is by one of our Canadian members. It tells the story of the enchanting Himalayan Blue Poppy. I have seen an advance copy - well worth adding to your bookshelf. (ISBN 13: 9781894898829 Published Date: 31/05/2009 Publisher: Horsdal & Schubart Publishers)

Suggestions for future speakers

Suggestions for future speakers and topics are invited. If you would like to volunteer, it need not be a full hour - short talks would be very welcome. Please contact any Committee member.

Membership Renewal 2009

If you have already paid for 2009 please disregard this notice!

A number of members have still to pay their subscription for 2009. A reminder renewal form has been included where applicable.

If you have sent your subscription but have not received a receipt and membership card please let me know.

Reports

I enclose with this newsletter a number of items following our Group meeting on 28th February 2009. If you do not receive any of them please let me know. As usual I may need to email items over a few days.

- Newsletter May 2009
- Report of the 6th AGM held on February 28th 2009.
- Financial statements for 2008
- Amended Constitution
- 'Plants for naming' by Evelyn Stevens
- 'The Call of the Wild' by Margaret Thorne
- *Meconopsis* intragenus relationships' by Prof. Adam Curtis
- '*Meconopsis sherriffii* and others' by Alan Furness
- '*Meconopsis*: Seed viability testing, seed coat characteristics and phylogenetics relationships' by Alan Elliott
- Renewal Reminder 2009 (for some members only)
'Members' Questions.... and answers' by Ian Christie will be written up at a later date.

If you do not receive any of them please let me know. As usual I may need to email items over a few days. If you have any problems with this mailing please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Norma McDowall (Secretary)